

Remarks

Claims 1-17 and 28 were acted upon in the previous Office Action. All of claims 1-17 and 28 stand rejected. Claims 18-27 stand withdrawn from consideration. No claims have been canceled and no new claims have been added, leaving claims 1-17 and 28 for further consideration.

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gabbay (USPN 6,368,348). Claim 9, 17 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Gabbay or Gabbay in combination with other art.

Gabbay was filed on May 15, 2000. The present application claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/176,046, filed January 14, 2000.

It therefore appears that once issued, Gabbay became prior art as of its filing date which was after the Applicants' filing date, and that therefore Gabbay does not constitute prior art with respect to the present application.

Inasmuch as all the rejected claims have been rejected wholly or in part upon the content of Gabbay, it appears that the rejections are not well founded and should be withdrawn.

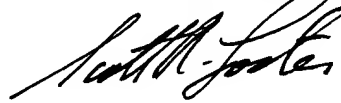
In reviewing the case, some minor errors were noted in the specification and have been corrected by way of amendment.

Similarly, reference character errors have been noted in FIGS. 15, 16, 17 and 19. Red ink corrections are submitted herewith for Examiner's approval.

Allowance of claims 1-17 and 28 appears to be in order and is most respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this submission, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,



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